

Attendance: See Appendix A for listing of members in attendance.

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., observing that quorum had been attained.

Jim Greer, Professor in the Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science, delivered a memorial tribute to honour Professor Emeritus John Cooke, of the Department of Computer Science.

Beth Williamson, university secretary, reported that at the December Council meeting a member asked during the meeting if a motion could be brought from the floor. She indicated her response was that a substantive motion could not be submitted without proper notice. Ms. Williamson advised that when consulted on the process by the chair, she had provided incorrect advice. A correction has been placed as a footnote in the December minutes.

Ms. Williamson referred members to Part One, III.5 (e) and (f) of Council Bylaws, which state the requirement for a notice of motion may be suspended upon vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting. The process for motions from the floor is set out in Council's Bylaws, in Council's *Guidelines for Motions*, and in *Procedures for Meetings and Organizations* by Kerr and King. When the Council Bylaws provide specific direction on a point of procedure, the bylaws take precedence over Kerr and King.

Council's *Guidelines for Motions* state that one way a Council member can bring a motion to Council is to propose from the floor that a motion be added to the agenda upon a two-thirds majority vote. Ms. Williamson advised that Council members wanting to bring a motion from the floor should do so as soon as possible at the meeting, preferably at the time of approval of the agenda. The request is that the agenda be amended to add the motion. Council then debates the question of whether the motion should be added to the agenda. After debate is closed, a vote is taken on whether the agenda should be amended. If the motion is carried by a two-thirds majority vote, then the motion is added to the agenda and considered at the point in the meeting indicated by the chair.

Ms. Williamson apologized for providing incorrect information and indicated she welcomed the opportunity to provide the correct information to Council.

1. Adoption of the agenda

GREER/DOBSON: *To adopt the agenda as circulated.*

D'EON/IRON: *To amend the agenda to add the motion projected on the screen: University Council emphatically endorses the inclusion of Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) knowledges and experiences for the purpose of achieving meaningful and relevant learning outcomes, in all degree programs at the University of Saskatchewan.*

The chair indicated that the motion to amend the agenda requires a two-thirds majority vote. If carried, the motion will be added to the agenda as item 7B Motion in Support of Indigenous Content in the Curriculum. Item 9.1 Report on TLARC's Activities Regarding Indigenous Content in Academic Programming will become item 7A as this information has come to Council in advance of the motion being brought from the floor.

The chair opened debate on the question of whether the motion should be added to the agenda by first inviting Professor D'Eon to speak as the mover of the motion to amend. Professor D'Eon recalled the discussion at the December Council meeting about Council approving a motion in support of the motion carried by the USSU Students' Council. Professor D'Eon indicated that he spoke on behalf of a number of individuals who worked on the motion submitted and who believed that approval of the motion would permit Council to add its voice to the growing chorus of voices calling for action in this area. Professor D'Eon argued that the motion was enthusiastic support in principle of the USSU motion. Rather than eclipsing the USSU motion, the motion amplifies the purpose and intent of the USSU motion.

Although supportive of the sentiment of the motion, some members questioned the irregular manner in which the motion was presented and its urgency, which was seen as preempting discussion of the motion by Council's committees. Other members spoke in favour of adding the motion to the agenda, indicating the motion was a grassroots response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and that at minimum, the motion should be added to the agenda for discussion. Professor Wilson, chair of the teaching, learning and academic resources committee (TLARC) clarified that although TLARC chose not to submit a similar motion, the committee supported the sentiment of the USSU motion, and the USSU motion was raised in discussion at a number of Council committees.

D'EON/IRON: To amend the agenda to add the motion projected on the screen: University Council emphatically endorses the inclusion of Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) knowledges and experiences for the purpose of achieving meaningful and relevant learning outcomes, in all degree programs at the University of Saskatchewan.

CARRIED

GREER/DOBSON: To adopt the agenda as amended with item 9.1 moved to item 7A and the addition of the D'EON/IRON motion as item 7B.

CARRIED

2. Opening remarks

Dr. Kalra provided opening remarks, noting the important business before Council and sharing the procedures for debate and discussion. Voting members were invited to sit in the center section and non-voting members and guests to sit in the side sections. The chair advised that those individuals wanting to speak should first be recognized by the chair and identify their name and whether they are a member of Council. Generally, Council members have first priority to speak. Members of the media were asked not to participate in debate and not to record the proceedings of the meeting.

The chair invited Ms. Williamson to speak about the call for nominations of members to be elected to Council as members-at-large. Ms. Williamson reported the call has gone out for 18 vacant

member-at-large positions as a result of 14 members' expiry of terms and four vacant positions due to either resignations or sabbatical leaves. Ms. Williamson read the names of the 14 current Council members whose terms expire on June 30, 2016, and encouraged these members to consider submitting their names for re-election. She also asked that all Council members encourage their fellow GAA members to consider submitting a nomination. The deadline for nominations is February 19, 2016, and nomination forms are available on the [university secretary website](#).

3. Minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2015

The chair asked for any corrections to the minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting. There were two corrections requested in the record of the discussion of item 8.2 USSU Motion on Indigenous Content in the Curriculum: the removal of the words "and the possibility of Council being presented with a motion following" from the last paragraph and the replacement of the words "a substantive motion" in the third last paragraph of the same section, with the words, "the motion was deemed to be substantive by the chair."

WILSON/D'EON: *That the Council minutes of December 17th, 2015 be approved as amended.*

CARRIED

4. Business from the minutes

The chair noted one item of business arising from the minutes as recorded under item 6. *Report of the Provost and Vice-president Academic* and consisting of a request for more information on the provincial government initiative on institutional performance indicators for post-secondary education. The chair indicated that Ernie Barber, provost and vice-president academic, would speak to the request as part of the presentation of his report to Council.

5. Report of the President

President Peter Stoicheff presented the president's report to Council. He noted that as his report was inadvertently omitted from the electronic Council agenda package, printed copies of the report were made available at the door. The president briefly summarized his written report for the benefit of members. The first section of the report provides an update on the committee established to create the new vision, mission, and values statement of the university. In response to the suggestion made at the previous Council meeting to add an elder to the committee membership, President Stoicheff confirmed that this has been done.

The second section of the report details the transition activities put in place by the transition committee for the president. President Stoicheff acknowledged the work of the transition committee and its usefulness to him in assuming the role of president. Most recently, meetings of the president with small groups of faculty members have been sponsored by the USFA throughout the months of January and February. In the coming months, the president indicated he would meet with all schools, colleges, and administrative units. These meetings will take different forms depending on the wishes of the host colleges and units. At some of the meetings, he indicated he would be accompanied by members of the vision, mission and values committee, but that the meetings would not exclusively focus on discussion of the new statement.

The president indicated the last reference within his written report was about the official opening of the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre. Although the centre is now open operationally, there

will be a formal opening with ceremonial events during Aboriginal Achievement Week, and he asked members to watch for the announcement of these events.

Providing other remarks, the president referred to his earlier statement to Council that universities are arguably more important now than they have ever been within the country and beyond, and that the autonomy and sustainability of universities is critical to this role. There is an enormous financial advantage in having a medical doctoral research intensive institution within the province, and this value has been carefully assessed through statistical analysis. The president provided several examples, citing that the university is responsible for between 1.5% to 2% of the province's gross domestic product (GDP) and that in comparison, the entire agricultural sector within the province is 11% of the province's GDP. The financial impact of a U15 institution is approximately twice that of a non-U15 institution due to the value of its research activity. The president reported that he has a continuing dialogue about the value the university adds with elected government officials and the province's Treasury Board.

Concluding his remarks, President Stoicheff congratulated Professor Kalra on being named CTV's Citizen of the Year (2015) for his contributions to the cultural and social health of the City of Saskatoon.

The chair invited questions of the president. There were several questions about how the student member and faculty member on the vision, mission, and values committee were selected by the president. The president indicated that he was responsible for the appointment of all members and made his selection using his own discretion and judgment, which was informed by the recommendations of others. Elections to the committee were not held to make the process of selection more efficient.

A question of interest was posed about whether the amount of tax paid by staff at the university was equivalent to the amount of the provincial grant to the university. The president agreed that the question was indeed interesting and asked for leave to make inquiries as to whether the statement was true or not.

6. Report of the Provost

Provost Barber first reported on the provincial government initiative on institutional performance indicators for post-secondary education (PSE) as an item of business arising. The initiative which began in October arises from the Ministry of Advanced Education and is intended to assist the ministry demonstrate the value of the PSE sector. The project will compare PSE support within the province against the support provided by other provinces. University administration is paying close attention to the project and has representation on the three project groups—a senior management group, an indicators group, and an IT group. The project is expected to run until 2020 and will not be fully implemented until then. Provost Barber indicated that he would provide written information on the topic in his February report to Council.

Provost Barber reported that although the university's 2016-17 tuition rates have not yet been announced, that the overall tuition rate increase will be 2.5%. The principles of the university's policy on tuition are being reviewed to ensure these are still the right principles on which tuition is based. Increasingly, there is greater differentiation among tuition rates on a program-by-program basis. Provost Barber acknowledged the work of Jacquie Thomarat, director of resource allocation and planning in the Institutional Planning and Assessment Office (IPA), in consulting with college deans and students on the topic of tuition. Provost Barber noted that this year there was less

student engagement and emphasized the importance of students being aware of how the university sets tuition and the basis for tuition rate changes.

The chair thanked Provost Barber for his report and invited questions. The responsibility of the university to conduct unit and programmatic reviews and the commitment to make the outcomes of the review process available in a timely manner was questioned by a member. Specific details were provided by the member of her own experience with graduate program review and the time and effort expended by many departmental members with no outcome or report visible months after the process ended. The member posited her question under the umbrella of institutional effectiveness, questioning the investment of university resources in reviews that have no discernable outcome. Despite receiving an excellent review, she concluded that she could not perceive that the review benefitted the university and summarized the review process as a bureaucratic waste of institutional resources. Other comments from members expressed an equally cynical view, questioning the value proposition of the university's goal to be within a certain percentile of comparator institutions when the university is ranked lower than these institutions and objecting to the necessity of reports and data requested for the PSE institutional indicators project. Although such reports are requested under the guise of improvement, the complaint was made that in reality, such requests support an audit and surveillance culture.

Provost Barber, Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning and Adam Baxter-Jones, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, addressed the concerns raised. Professor Baxter-Jones indicated that systematic graduate program review as approved by Council was intended to assist programs in continually improving program quality. Vice-provost McDougall noted that under the degree authorization legislation of the province, the university is exempted from a degree audit due to the review processes the university has in place. With respect to the specific concerns on the slowness of the outcome of the graduate program review in the member's department, Dean Baxter-Jones indicated that he took full responsibility for the lack of progress and would respond to the review report promptly. Provost Barber affirmed the commitment of administration to Council to complete unit reviews, most recently the three interdisciplinary schools have been or are under review as a commitment to Council at the time the schools were established.

A member thanked the provost for the information provided in his report on the Thorvaldson Building and asked for an explanation of how those labs that will remain in the building will function, given the de-emphasis on research in the building. Greg Fowler, vice-president of finance and resources, requested leave to respond more fully to the question at the next Council meeting as an item of business arising, and indicated that overall, these labs are intended to function at a lower level.

As 2016 has been named *Year of the Pulse* by the United Nations, a request was made to acknowledge the university's research with pulse crops. The chair indicated he had made note of the request.

7. Student societies

7.1 Report from the USSU

Jack Saddleback, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students Union, referred members to his written report, reporting in addition that the Commission on Female

Leadership town hall to discuss female leadership within the student experience would occur on February 1, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in Convocation Hall.

7.2 Report from the GSA

Rajat Chakravarty, president of the Graduate Students' Association, presented the report to Council. He reported on the various activities and areas of focus for Graduate Student Achievement Week February 29 – March 4. The GSA is working to foster student engagement through various sports team events and recently collaborated with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) to host an orientation session to the GSA.

7A. Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources

Jay Wilson, TLARC chair presented the report.

7A.1 Item for Information – Report on TLARC's activities regarding Indigenous Content in Academic Programming

Professor Wilson emphasized that the committee took the first opportunity to meet in January with Trevor Crowe, associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, to begin to develop some concrete ideas in response to the USSU motion to include Indigenous content in all of the university's degree programs. The report submitted to Council outlines a three-pronged approach, comprised of a refocus on the university's Learning Charter, an environmental scan of university academic programming already containing Indigenous content and learning outcomes, and the development of strategies to assist colleges and schools with the indigenization of the curriculum. Professor Wilson indicated the committee seeks the oversight and assistance of other Council committees in its work. Professor McDougall provided additional comments, indicating that TLARC will seek to embed degree-level expectations tied to Indigenous content and Indigenous world views in the Learning Charter. Those colleges that have already taken up this challenge by setting out degree-level goals will expand by adding Indigenous content goals.

Comments and questions were invited by the chair. Discussion included support of the appropriateness of utilizing the Learning Charter and the Edwards School of Business assurance of learning initiative, which assess whether students have integrated the five core learning goals of the Learning Charter. The question of whether content experts are required to ensure the Indigenous content provided is respectful and inclusive was raised. Professor McDougall noted this question falls within her portfolio under the category of mobilizing resources and community support and will be considered. A request was made to include success goals and measurable factors of student success.

The timeline for TLARC's work was discussed. Professor Wilson indicated that as the work is a high priority on campus, by extension it is a high priority to TLARC. Although cognizant of the priority of the work and the timelines approved by the USSU, the committee will proceed in a measured and informed manner and will continue to keep Council informed of its progress.

7B. Request for Decision to Support in Principle – Motion in Support of Indigenous Content in the Curriculum

Marcel D'Eon, Council member and mover of the motion read the preamble to the motion (attached). Professor D'Eon described the motion as an accumulation of many tributaries coming together. He conveyed that the motion is about individual and group transformation, about building relationships through education, knowledge, and understanding and that for these reasons and others, those he consulted thought it important for Council to make a statement to direct the university and its committees in their work. The motion is made to be able to lend Council's voice to others in an emphatic way and to mobilize the university to continue to move in this particular direction. The motion as written is sufficiently broad and flexible enough to encompass movement but no timeline has been placed within the motion as the expectation is the Council and the university administration will work on a timeline.

The chair invited discussion of the motion.

Several Council members spoke in favour of the spirit of the motion and its transformative power to open minds to understand different cultures. The importance of the motion at this time was likened to the earlier transformation and re-gendering of the Canadian professoriate, where enormous strides have been made. There were a number of questions on what the word Indigenous means, whether the term is exclusionary of other cultures and experiences, whether Indigenous refers to all places or is specific to Canadian Indigenous students, and whether indigenization of the curriculum takes place at the discipline level or at the degree level. Peta Bonham-Smith, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, indicated that the college will embed Indigenous knowledge across the curriculum, not within the student's specific discipline. The question of how Indigenous content will be integrated across graduate student programs was raised. Professor McDougall clarified that as the motion reads all degree programs, graduate programs are included. Further consultation is required by TLARC to consider how this might be realized.

Jack Saddleback, USSU president, spoke in favour of the motion, indicating that by passing this resolution, the university is taking a step toward placing itself on the map as much for turning out good citizens as for turning out good students. Although the students understand many things remain to be worked out, students are committed to ensuring consultation occurs, and will work with the university to grandfather in Indigenous content within degree programs. The president of the Indigenous Students' Council spoke of the importance of Indigenous students being able to see themselves in every college if the university seeks greater enrolment of Indigenous students across campus.

Lisa Kalynchuk, chair of the planning and priorities committee, reported on the discussion by the committee of whether Council should approve a motion to require the inclusion of Indigenous content in all degree programs. Although supportive of the principle of the motion, there was the realization that Council does not have the ability to enforce such a motion. Action is required to realize the motion and develop an accountability mechanism for academic units to move in this direction.

D'EON/IRON: University Council emphatically endorses the inclusion of Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) knowledges and experiences for the purpose of achieving meaningful and relevant learning outcomes, in all degree programs at the University of Saskatchewan.

CARRIED

8. Academic Programs Committee

Professor Roy Dobson, Council vice-chair and member of the academic programs committee, presented the reports on behalf of Kevin Flynn, chair.

8.1 Request for decision – Certificate in professional Communication in the College of Engineering

The certificate program is designed to open access to certification to non-engineering students and Engineering post-graduate students.

A Council member called for a vote to determine quorum was still present prior to the motion. The chair asked that Council members raise their hands for a tally of members to ascertain quorum. Ms. Williamson undertook a count and reported that quorum was sustained.

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: That Council approve the Certificate in Professional Communication in the College of Engineering.

CARRIED

8.2 Request for Decision – Addition of the GRE as an Admission Qualification to the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics

Professor Dobson indicated the addition of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is intended to help identify and recruit students from a large pool of international applicants. The required score is recommended for all students, including European students trained under the Bologna process, but will be voluntary for students from Canada and the USA. Questions included how many other graduate programs require the GRE exam and concern about the additional cost to students of writing the exam and at what point various admission requirements become financially prohibitive to international students. Dean Baxter-Jones reported that to his knowledge several graduate programs require the GRE and the use of a standardized exam assists with international credential evaluation. A member suggested that rather than introduce these requirements one program at a time that the requirement should be reviewed across the university more broadly. He noted that although the proposal indicates it is in line with comparator institutions, only three Canadian universities are cited as employing the GRE. Dean Baxter-Jones indicated that Graduate Council sets the minimum admission requirements and that he would submit the member's suggestion to Graduate Council for discussion.

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: That Council approve a new admission qualification, the submission of a Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) score, for the Master of Arts in Economics, effective for students who have not completed university degrees in Canada or the United States of America and who are entering the program in or after September 2017.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for decision – Master of Education (M. Ed) in Leadership in Postsecondary Education

The opportunity to offer the proposed Master's program was identified in the review of the graduate programs housed in the Department of Educational Administration. Professor Dobson indicated the proposed program meets an identified demand and the resources required to offer the program are available.

DOBSON/KALYNCHUK: *That Council approve the Master of Education (M. Ed) in Leadership in Post-Secondary Education, effective September 2016.*

CARRIED

10. Other business

There was no other business.

11. Question period

The chair invited questions from members. John Rigby, interim associate vice-provost, IPA indicated that with the chair's permission he could provide an answer to the earlier question to the president of the equivalency of provincial grant to the taxes paid by university employees. He confirmed that for every dollar provided to the university, approximately 40 cents is returned to the province through taxes and other means.

In response to the objection of institutional reviews, Professor Rigby referred members to the [*Framework of Assessment*](#) approved by Council in 2008, which includes unit reviews and a systematic graduate program review process.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion (DOBSON/IRON) at 4:00 pm.